

Method 2: Bernstein's inequality for matrices

Theorem

(Tropp'15) Let X_1, \dots, X_m be independent Hermitian random matrices such that: $\mathbb{E}(X_k) = 0$, $\|X_k\|_{op} \leq L$ almost surely, $k \in [m]$.

Let $Y = \sum_{k \in [m]} X_k$, and $v(Y) := \|\mathbb{E}(Y^2)\|_{op} = \|\sum_{k \in [m]} \mathbb{E}X_k^2\|_{op}$.

Then for all $t > 0$, $\mathbb{P}(\lambda_1(Y) \geq t) \leq n \exp\left(\frac{-t^2}{2(v(Y)+Lt/3)}\right)$.

This implies for all $t > 0$: $\mathbb{P}(\|Y\|_{op} \geq t) \leq 2n \exp\left(\frac{-t^2}{2(v(Y)+Lt/3)}\right)$.

Corollary

For W s.t. W_{ij} independent up to symmetry, $\mathbb{E}W_{ij} = 0$, $|W_{ij}| \leq 1$, $\mathbb{E}W_{ij}^2 = O(d/n)$:

If $d \gg \log(n)$ then with high probability $\rho(W) = o(d)$.

Stronger bounds on $\rho = \rho(W)$

Theorem (Feige and Ofek, 2005)

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$: symmetric matrix with entries independent up to symmetry, $A_{ij} \in [0, 1]$, and such that $\mathbb{E}(A_{ij}) \leq d/n$, where $d \leq n^{1/5}$. Then for some (universal) constant $\kappa > 0$, with high probability $\rho(A - \mathbb{E}(A)) \leq \kappa \sqrt{\max(d, \log(n))}$.

Corollary

For $d \gg \sqrt{\max(d, \log(n))}$, i.e. $d \gg \sqrt{\log(n)}$, with high probability $\rho(A - \mathbb{E}A) = o(d)$

Proof of Bernstein matrix inequality

Lemma

For independent Hermitian matrices X_k , $k \in [m]$, and $Y = \sum_{k \in [m]} X_k$:

$$\mathbb{E} \text{Tr} e^{\theta Y} \leq \text{Tr} \exp \left(\sum_{k \in [m]} \ln \mathbb{E} e^{\theta X_k} \right)$$

Lemma

For Hermitian X such that $\mathbb{E}(X) = 0$ and $\|X\| \leq L$ almost surely, then:

$$\forall \theta \in (0, 3/L), \begin{cases} \mathbb{E} e^{\theta X} \preceq \exp \left(\frac{\theta^2/2}{1-\theta L/3} \mathbb{E} X^2 \right), \\ \ln \mathbb{E} e^{\theta X} \preceq \frac{\theta^2/2}{1-\theta L/3} \mathbb{E} X^2, \end{cases}$$

Lemma

For Hermitian A, B , if $A \preceq B$, then $\forall i \in [n], \lambda_i(A) \leq \lambda_i(B)$. Hence for all non-decreasing $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,
 $\text{Tr} f(A) \leq \text{Tr} f(B)$.

Application: Community Detection in the Stochastic Block Model

$\mathcal{G}(n, \{\alpha_i\}_{i \in [K]}, P)$, where $\alpha_i > 0$, $\sum_{i \in [K]} \alpha_i = 1$, $P \in [0, 1]^{K \times K}$:
multi-type version of the Erdős-Rényi random graph

- n vertices partitioned into K communities
- Type (community) of node i : $\sigma_i \in [K]$, σ_i : i.i.d., $\sim \alpha$
- Conditionally on $\sigma_{[n]}$, independently for each pair $i, j \in [n]$: edge (i, j) present with probability $P_{\sigma(i), \sigma(j)}$.

Strong signal regime:: fixed $K, \alpha, B \in \mathbb{R}_+^{K \times K}$; $P = (d/n)B$, with
 $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} d = +\infty$

Spectral embedding

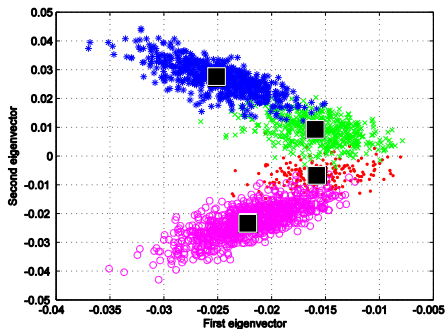
- Extract top two (more generally top R) eigenvalues λ_1, λ_2 of graph's adjacency matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ (ordered by absolute value: $|\lambda_1| \geq |\lambda_2| \geq \dots$)
- Let $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n$: corresponding normalized eigenvectors
- Embed vertex $k \in [n]$ into \mathbb{R}^2 by letting $z_k := \sqrt{n}(x_1(k), x_2(k))$

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→ based on PCA dimensionality reduction of A to dimension R

Example: spectral embedding for SBM



A case with $K = 4$ communities

Spectral embedding seems to reflect community structure

→ Why / when do spectral methods work?

Theorem

Assume communities are **distinguishable**, i.e. for each $k \neq \ell \in [K]$, there exists $m \in [K]$ such that $B_{km} \neq B_{\ell m}$.

Assume $\sqrt{\ln(n)} \ll d \ll n^\delta$ for some fixed $\delta \in]0, 1[$. Let R : rank of matrix B . Then with high probability:

(i) the spectrum of A consists of R eigenvalues of order $\Theta(d)$ and $n - R$ eigenvalues of order $o(d)$.

(ii) R -dimensional spectral embedding reveals underlying communities: except for vanishing fraction of nodes $i \in [n]$,

$$\|z_i - z_j\| = \begin{cases} o(1) & \text{if } \sigma(i) = \sigma(j), \\ \Omega(1) & \text{if } \sigma(i) \neq \sigma(j) \end{cases}$$

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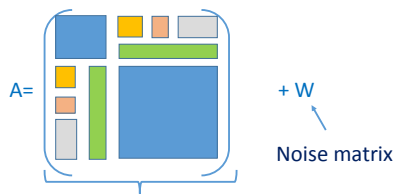
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Corollary

Under these conditions any sensible clustering scheme (eg K -means properly initialized) correctly classifies all but vanishing fraction of nodes.

Proof strategy



\bar{A} : block matrix (useful “signal”)

- Write adjacency matrix as $A = \bar{A} + W$ with $\bar{A}_{ij} = \frac{d}{n} B_{\sigma(i), \sigma(j)}$
- R leading eigen-elements of \bar{A} capture community structure
- Control perturbation of eigen-elements of a symmetric matrix \bar{A} by addition of symmetric matrix W in terms of **spectral radius** $\rho(W)$ of noise matrix
- Prove bound on $\rho(W)$ for random noise matrix W

Eigenstructure of \bar{A}

Block structure of $\bar{A} \Rightarrow \bar{A}x$ constant on each block \Rightarrow eigenvectors associated to non-zero eigenvalue are block-constant.

For $t \in \mathbb{R}^K$ define $x := \phi(t) = (t_{\sigma(i)})_{i \in [n]} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Then $\bar{A}\phi(t) = d\phi(Mt)$, where $M_{uv} := B_{uv}\alpha_v$.

Lemma

Spectrum of \bar{A} :

R eigen-pairs $(\lambda_u = d\mu_u, \bar{x}_u = \phi(t_u))$ where (μ_u, t_u) : eigen-pairs of M with $\mu_u \neq 0$;

0: eigenvalue with multiplicity $n - R$

Eigenstructure of \bar{A} (continued)

Lemma

Under distinguishability hypothesis there exists $\epsilon > 0$ function of B, α such that for any choice of normalized leading eigenvectors $\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_R$, $\bar{z}_i = \sqrt{n}(\bar{x}_1(i), \dots, \bar{x}_R(i))^T$ verify

$$\sigma(i) \neq \sigma(j) \Rightarrow \|\bar{z}_i - \bar{z}_j\| \geq \epsilon > 0$$

Proof: Let $t_u \in \mathbb{R}^K$ be such that $\sqrt{n}\bar{x}_u = \phi(t_u)$, and $\sqrt{\alpha} = \text{Diag}(\sqrt{\alpha_u})$. Then: $\{\sqrt{\alpha}t_u\}_{u \in [R]}$: orthonormal family by orthonormality of the \bar{x}_u . t_u eigenvectors of matrix $M = B\alpha$, hence $\sqrt{\alpha}t_u$: orthonormal family of eigenvectors of matrix $\sqrt{\alpha}B\sqrt{\alpha}$.

Thus $\sqrt{\alpha}B\sqrt{\alpha} = \sum_{u \in [R]} \mu_u (\sqrt{\alpha}t_u)(\sqrt{\alpha}t_u)^T$.

Equivalently: $B = \sum_{u \in [R]} \mu_u t_u t_u^T$.

Hence minimum of $\|\bar{z}_i - \bar{z}_j\|$ over $\sigma(i) \neq \sigma(j)$ strictly positive, for otherwise B has two identical rows, i.e. distinguishability fails.

Proof

- Matrix \bar{A} of rank R , spectral gaps $|\bar{\lambda}_i - \bar{\lambda}_j| = \Omega(d)$, R -dimensional spectral embedding with $\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_R$ separates clusters
 $V_k = \{i \in [n] : \sigma_i = k\}$
- Feige-Ofek: $d \gg \sqrt{\log n} \Rightarrow \rho := \rho(A - \bar{A}) \ll d$. Weyl's inequality: R eigenvalues λ_i close to $\bar{\lambda}_i = \Theta(d)$, others of order $\rho \ll d$
- Davis-Kahane: eigenvectors x_i such that $\langle x_i, \bar{x}_i \rangle = 1 - O((\rho/d)^2)$

Then $\sum_{i \in [n]} \|z_i - \bar{z}_i\|^2 = n \sum_{u \in [R]} \|x_u - \bar{x}_u\|^2 = n\theta$ with
 $\theta = O((\rho/d)^2) = o(1)$

Hence (Tchebitchev inequality): $|\{i : \|z_i - \bar{z}_i\| \geq \theta^{1/3}\}| \leq n\theta^{1/3} = o(n)$

Yields desired conclusion: except for vanishing fraction $\theta^{1/3}$ of nodes, spectral representatives z_i $\theta^{1/3}$ -close of corresponding \bar{z}_i , themselves clustered according to community structure

Graphon model

Let \mathcal{X} : compact metric space, π : probability measure on \mathcal{X} ,
 $P(x, y) : \mathcal{X}^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$: continuous symmetric function

Definition

Graphon $\mathcal{G}(n, \pi, P)$: σ_i i.i.d. $\sim \pi$. Conditionally on $\sigma_{[n]}$, $(A_{i,j})_{i < j}$: independent, $\sim \text{Ber}(P(\sigma_i, \sigma_j))$.

Focus on **strong signal regime**: Graphon $\mathcal{G}(n, \pi, (d/n)K)$ for fixed π and kernel K , and **signal strength** $d \rightarrow \infty$

Operator theory background

Theorem

(Kato'66) Let T : linear self-adjoint operator on Hilbert space $\mathbb{L}^2(\pi)$ where π : non-negative measure be **compact**, i.e. for any bounded set C , $\overline{T(C)}$ is compact.

Then: T admits discrete real spectrum $\{\lambda_k\}_{k \geq 1}$ and associated orthonormal collection of eigenfunctions $\{\psi_k\}_{k \geq 1}$ such that

$$Tf(x) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k \psi_k(x) \int_{\mathcal{X}} \psi_k(y) f(y) \pi(dy).$$

Special case: for compact \mathcal{X} , continuous symmetric kernel $K : \mathcal{X}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, associated operator $T : Tf(x) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} K(x, y) f(y) \pi(dy)$ is compact. Its eigen-elements $\{\lambda_k\}_{k \geq 1}$, $\{\psi_k\}_{k \geq 1}$ verify

$$K(x, y) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k \psi_k(x) \psi_k(y),$$

$$\sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k^2 = \int_{\mathcal{X}^2} K(x, y)^2 \pi(dx) \pi(dy).$$

Koltchinskii-Giné Theorem

Theorem

For compact \mathcal{X} endowed with probability measure π , continuous symmetric kernel $K : \mathcal{X}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, associated operator T , positive part of its spectrum $\{\lambda_i^+\}_{i \geq 1} : \lambda_1^+ \geq \lambda_2^+ \geq \dots \geq 0$.

Let $\{\sigma_i\}_{i \geq 1} : i.i.d., \sim \pi$, and $M = \frac{1}{n} (K(\sigma_i, \sigma_j))_{i,j \in [n]}$.

Let $i_0 : \lambda_{i_0-1}^+ > \lambda_{i_0}^+ = \dots = \lambda_{i_0+d-1}^+ > \lambda_{i_0+d}^+$. (d -dimensional eigenspace)

Let $\lambda_j^{+,n}$: positive eigenvalues of M , and associated ON eigenvectors $v_j^{+,n}$.

Then for $j = i_0, \dots, i_0 + d - 1$:

$\lambda_j^{+,n} \rightarrow \lambda_j^+$ in probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$;

There exist orthonormal eigenfunctions ψ_j^+ of T such that

$\left\| v_j^{+,n} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \{\psi_j(\sigma_k)\}_{k \in [n]} \right\| \rightarrow 0$ in probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Graphon reconstruction, strong signal regime

Theorem

Let $A \sim \mathcal{G}(n, \pi, (d/n)K)$. Let $R \geq 1$ be fixed such that $|\lambda_{R+1}(T)| < |\lambda_R(T)|$. Let u_1, \dots, u_R : orthonormal collection of eigenvectors of A associated with $\lambda_1(A), \dots, \lambda_R(A)$. Assume that $\sqrt{\log n} \ll d \ll n^\delta$ for some fixed $\delta \in (0, 1)$. Define

$$\hat{K}_{ij} = \sum_{\ell=1}^R \lambda_\ell(A) u_\ell(i) u_\ell(j), \quad i, j \in [n].$$

Then with high probability

$$\sum_{i, j \in [n]} \left[\frac{n}{d} \hat{K}_{ij} - K(\sigma_i, \sigma_j) \right]^2 = o(n^2) + O(n^2 \epsilon_R^2),$$

where $\sigma_i \in \mathcal{X}$: type of vertex $i \in [n]$, and

$$\epsilon_R^2 = \sum_{\ell > R} \lambda_\ell(K)^2.$$

Interpretation: For fraction $1 - o(1)$ of pairs i, j ,

$$\hat{K}_{ij} = \frac{d}{n} K(\sigma_i, \sigma_j) [o(1) + O(\epsilon_R)].$$

Proof idea: Write $A = \frac{d}{n} (K(\sigma_i, \sigma_j))_{i, j \in [n]} + W$

Feige-Ofek or Bernstein inequality: w.h.p. $\rho(W) = o(d)$.

Koltchinskii-Giné's theorem: eigen-elements of

$$\frac{d}{n} (K(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)) \approx d \lambda_\ell(T), \{n^{-1/2} \psi_\ell(\sigma_k)\}_{k \in [n]}$$

Hence $\hat{K}_{ij} \approx \frac{d}{n} \sum_{\ell \in [R]} \lambda_\ell(T) \psi_\ell(\sigma_i) \psi_\ell(\sigma_j)$.

Finally $K'(x, y) := K(x, y) - \sum_{\ell \in [R]} \lambda_\ell(T) \psi_\ell(x) \psi_\ell(y)$ verifies LLN:

$$\frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i, j \in [n]} [K'(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)]^2 \rightarrow \sum_{\ell > R} \lambda_\ell(T)^2 = \epsilon_R^2$$

Example

Take $\mathcal{X} = [0, 1]$, $\pi = \mathcal{U}([0, 1])$, $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 1-periodic continuous function, and $K(x, y) = g(x - y)$.

Then spectrum of K determined by Fourier coefficients of g

Ex: for $g(x) = |x|$, $|x| \leq 1/2$: $g(x) = \frac{1}{4} + \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{(-1)^k - 1}{\pi^2 k^2} \cos(2\pi x)$

$\rightarrow \lambda_1 = \frac{1}{4}$, $\lambda_{2k} = \lambda_{2k+1} = \frac{-1}{\pi^2 (2k-1)^2}$, $k \geq 1$.

\rightarrow Power-law decay of spectrum of A

Pairwise graphical models and Markov random fields

Definition

For undirected graph $\mathcal{G} := (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$, finite alphabet \mathcal{X} , functions $\psi_i : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, $i \in \mathcal{V}$, $\psi_e : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, $e \in \mathcal{E}$, the probability distribution μ on $\mathcal{X}^{\mathcal{V}}$ defined by
$$\mu(x) := \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{i \in \mathcal{V}} \psi_i(x_i) \prod_{e=(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} \psi_{i,j}(x_i, x_j)$$

is a **pairwise graphical model** with underlying graph \mathcal{G}

The normalization constant $Z = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}^{\mathcal{V}}} \prod_{i \in \mathcal{V}} \psi_i(x_i) \prod_{e=(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} \psi_{i,j}(x_i, x_j)$ is known as its partition function.

Example

Ising model: $\mathcal{X} = \{-1, 1\}$, $\psi_i(x_i) = e^{h_i x_i}$, $\psi_{ij}(x_i, x_j) = e^{J_{ij} x_i x_j}$.

X_i : spin at site i ; h_i : external field at i ; J_{ij} : coupling coefficient between sites i and j

Definition

For undirected graph $\mathcal{G} := (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$, finite alphabet \mathcal{X} , probability measure μ on $\mathcal{X}^{\mathcal{V}}$, (\mathcal{G}, μ) : Markov field if there exist functions $\psi_K : \mathcal{X}^K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ indexed by **cliques** K of \mathcal{G} and Z such that

$$\mu(x) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_K \psi_K(x_K), x \in \mathcal{X}^{\mathcal{V}},$$

where $x_K := (x_i)_{i \in K}$.

Easy property: For any pairwise graphical model μ with underlying graph \mathcal{G} , (μ, \mathcal{G}) is a Markov random field.

Definition

For subsets $A, B, C \subset \mathcal{V}$, C separates A and B in \mathcal{G} if any path in \mathcal{G} from A to B traverses C . We denote this $A \underset{\mathcal{G}}{\overset{C}{-}} B$.

Hammersley-Clifford Theorem

Theorem

For Markov field (μ, \mathcal{G}) , and A, B, C such that $A \stackrel{C}{\perp} B$, then under μ , X_A and X_B are independent conditionally on X_C .

Conversely, for any probability measure μ on \mathcal{X}^V such that $\forall x \in \mathcal{X}^V, \mu(x) > 0$ and for all A, B, C such that $A \stackrel{C}{\perp} B$, under μ , X_A and X_B are independent conditionally on X_C , then (μ, \mathcal{G}) is a Markov field.

Proof (Markov field \Rightarrow conditional independence)

Let $A \overset{C}{\underset{\mathcal{G}}{-}} B$. Denote \bar{A} , resp. \bar{B} : nodes reachable from A , resp. B without entering C . Let $A' = \bar{A} \setminus A$, $B' = \bar{B} \setminus B$.

Lemma

\bar{A} and \bar{B} are disjoint. Any clique K of \mathcal{G} is included in $\bar{A} \cup C$ or in $\bar{B} \cup C$.

Corollary

For Markov field (μ, \mathcal{G}) there exist functions F, G such that for any $x \in \mathcal{X}^{\mathcal{V}}$, $\mu(x) = F(x_{\bar{A} \cup C})G(x_{\bar{B} \cup C})$.

$$\text{Thus: } \mathbb{P}(X_{A \cup C} = x_{A \cup C}) = \sum_{y_{A'}, y_{\bar{B}}} F(x_{A \cup C}, y_{A'}) G(y_{\bar{B}}, x_C),$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_{B \cup C} = x_{B \cup C}) = \sum_{z_{B'}, z_{\bar{A}}} F(z_{\bar{A}}, x_C) G(x_{B \cup C}, z_{B'}),$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_{A \cup B \cup C} = x_{A \cup B \cup C}) = \sum_{y_{A'}, z_{B'}} F(x_{A \cup C}, y_{A'}) G(x_{B \cup C}, z_{B'}),$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_C = x_C) = \sum_{z_{\bar{A}}, y_{\bar{B}}} F(z_{\bar{A}}, x_C) G(y_{\bar{B}}, x_C).$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(X_{A \cup C} = x_{A \cup C}) \mathbb{P}(X_{B \cup C} = x_{B \cup C}) = \mathbb{P}(X_{A \cup B \cup C} = x_{A \cup B \cup C}) \mathbb{P}(X_C = x_C)$$

Proof (Conditional independence \Rightarrow Markov field)

Fix $x^* \in \mathcal{X}^{\mathcal{V}}$; for $S \subseteq \mathcal{V}$, note $\phi_S(x_S) := \prod_{U \subseteq S} \mu(x_U, x_{\mathcal{V} \setminus U}^*)^{(-1)^{|S \setminus U|}}$

Lemma

One has $\mu(x) = \mu(x^*) \prod_{S \subseteq \mathcal{V}, S \neq \emptyset} \phi_S(x_S)$.

Proof:

$$\prod_{S \subseteq \mathcal{V}, S \neq \emptyset} \phi_S(x_S) = \prod_{S \subseteq \mathcal{V}, S \neq \emptyset} \prod_{U \subseteq S} \mu(x_U, x_{\mathcal{V} \setminus U}^*)^{(-1)^{|S \setminus U|}} = \prod_{U \subseteq \mathcal{V}} \mu(x_U, x_{\mathcal{V} \setminus U}^*)^{\kappa_U},$$

where $\kappa_U = \sum_{S \neq \emptyset, U \subseteq S \subseteq \mathcal{V}} (-1)^{|S \setminus U|}$.

Use $\sum_{B \subseteq A} (-1)^{|B|} = \sum_{B \subseteq A} (-1)^{|A \setminus B|} = \mathbb{I}_{A=\emptyset} \Rightarrow \sum_{S \subseteq \mathcal{V}} (-1)^{|S|} = 0$ to establish:

$$\kappa_{\emptyset} = -1, \kappa_{\mathcal{V}} = 1, \emptyset \neq U \subsetneq \mathcal{V} \Rightarrow \kappa_U = 0.$$

Lemma

For S not a clique of \mathcal{G} , $\phi_X(x_S) \equiv 1$.

Proof: If $\exists j \in S : x_j = x_j^*$, then

$$\phi_S(x_S) = \prod_{U \subseteq S-j} \left(\frac{\mu(x_U, x_{\mathcal{V} \setminus U}^*)}{\mu(x_{U+j}, x_{\mathcal{V} \setminus (U+j)}^*)} \right)^{(-1)^{|S \setminus U|}} = 1.$$

S not a clique $\Rightarrow \exists i, j \in S : (i, j) \notin \mathcal{E}$.

$$\phi_S(x_S) = \prod_{U \subseteq S-i} \left(\frac{\mu(x_U, x_{\mathcal{V} \setminus U}^*)}{\mu(x_{U+i}, x_{\mathcal{V} \setminus (U+i)}^*)} \right)^{(-1)^{|S \setminus U|}}.$$

For fixed $U \subseteq S - i$, $K := \mathcal{V} \setminus \{i, j\}$, let $y_k = \begin{cases} x_k & \text{if } k \in U, \\ x_k^* & \text{if } k \in \mathcal{V} \setminus U. \end{cases}$

Then, since $\{i\} \stackrel{K}{\sim}_{\mathcal{G}} \{j\}$, $\frac{\mu(x_U, x_{\mathcal{V} \setminus U}^*)}{\mu(x_{U+i}, x_{\mathcal{V} \setminus (U+i)}^*)} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_i = x_i^* | X_K = y_K) \mathbb{P}(X_j = y_j | X_K = y_K)}{\mathbb{P}(X_i = x_i | X_K = y_K) \mathbb{P}(X_j = y_j | X_K = y_K)} \dots$
 $\dots = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_i = x_i^* | X_K = y_K)}{\mathbb{P}(X_i = x_i | X_K = y_K)}$, which does not depend on value x_j .

Thus $\phi_S(x_S) = \phi_S(x_{S-j}, x_j^*) = 1$.